

# A Global Infrastructure for Mass Surveillance - Parts One and Two

## Part One



Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear. --Harry S. Truman

A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government.

It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess of the public treasury.

From that time on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the results that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship.

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years.

These nations have progressed through this sequence: from bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to selfishness; from selfishness to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependency; from dependency back again to bondage. --Sir Alex Fraser Tytler (1742-1813)

### Scottish jurist and historian

"Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition . . ."

Does this ring a bell?

How about the name Joe Wilson - does that name sound a bell?

What about Valerie Plame - any bells yet?

General Shenseki?

Where do Americans find themselves in Sir Alex Tytler's cycle?

The United States can boast a 230-year history so our actions and the time factor would bring us well into the "apathy-dependency" stage.

If this is true, the return to the "bondage" stage is not far off - as witnessed by world events - especially those of the last 5 years.

However, the "apathy" stage of our self-destruction cycle seems to be in "fast forward".

One would have to search American history with an extremely fine-toothed comb to find a comparable period where apathy played such a major role in the individual's life and that of his government.

Even if one were to successfully separate normal political corruption from apathy, he would still have a hard time finding a comparable era in our history where the theoretical "opposition party" in the Congress apparently watches the Executive Branch with "eyes wide open" and still refuses to acknowledge or act to restrict even the most blatant abuses of power by the Executive.

Congress not only refuses to acknowledge malfeasance in the actions of the Executive, but also seems determined to abet whatever excesses the Executive wants to heap upon the country.

One could argue forever about whether poor education breeds apathy or apathy breeds poor education.

The same can be said of complacency and apathy.

However, the "chicken and the egg" arguments are not pertinent to the discussion at this point.

These points become a preface to a topic which is now crowding other subjects "off the radar screen" in all forms of mass media.

Americans' attention is now being focused on the White House wire tapping of citizens without regard for the law.

The topic becomes a bonanza for blaring headlines and sniping between the two political parties.

However, the real threat to Americans lies buried under layers of apathy and total ignorance of the extent of our government's progress toward TOTAL surveillance of its citizens within the United States and through cooperation and coercion of other governments, the surveillance of Americans and foreigners on a global scale.

This surveillance is not being designed to monitor only citizen movement on a global scale, but is also being designed to lay open to the various governments ALL personal and private matters of finance, health, political affiliation, and religious preferences, electronic communication and on, and on, and on.

The following information is not something torn from the pages of Franz Kafka or Orson Wells' 1984.

The information presented here is taken from an [April 2005 report made by The International Campaign Against Mass Surveillance \(ICAMS\)](#) (Pdf). (Refer to References and Notes below).

The programs described below were designed before 9/11; since 9/11 these programs have been put on steroids. The world in which these programs are being constructed is one in which "individuals are presumed guilty, detained and not told the charges against them, denied the right to face their accusers, denied the right to know the evidence against them and the criteria by which they are being judged and given no legal recourse and no one to advocate for them".

[1] Please note, this does not refer to the present definition of terrorist or enemy combatant.

These programs apply to AMERICAN CITIZENS as well as the citizens of the global network of countries being brought together to form an unparalleled net of surveillance, arrest, detention, torture and indefinite detention - either with or without formal charges - and finally death.

(This could have served as an agenda for The New World Order).

For one who sits idly in front of the television and watches the nightly news- reader tell about another Guantanamo prisoner (terrorist) being held for an indefinite period without any of our democratic safeguards, the "news" doesn't even register on the listener's Richter Scale.

Little does the American know that the prisoner's plight being presented may be merely a prelude to his own plight under the plans presently being secretly refined and expanded by the global community under coercion and intimidation by the United States.

To bring these programs into focus and allow the reader to glimpse a portion of their scope and the progress being made in their implementation, signposts of program characteristics will be shown as well as the myths being created to conceal the progress of this global cancer.

(The following may bring more meaning to the fact that the KBR arm of Halliburton has recently been awarded a contract to build a 385 million dollar detention center to set up temporary detention, processing and deportation facilities in case of a sudden influx of immigrants!!).

Signposts:

## First Signpost: The Registration of Populations.

1. Mass Detentions of Muslim Immigrants and Registration through NSEERS.

2. US-VISIT and the E.U. Visa Information System a) Biometric visas. b) Linkage of biometric information to a global web of databases. c) U.S. acquisition of domestic and foreign databases.

Second Signpost: The Creation of a Global Registration System.

## Biometric passports.

Third Signpost: The Creation of an Infrastructure for the Global Surveillance of Movements

1. U.S. demands for sharing passenger name records (PNR).
2. Surveillance expansion to other transportation systems.

Fourth Signpost: The Creation of an Infrastructure for the Global Surveillance of Electronic Communications and Financial Transactions.[5]

1. Mandatory data detention.
2. Expansion of ECHELON.

In 1948, the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand created a program under which they trawled the world's telephone communications to spy on each others'

countries and to share information on each others' citizens that could not be obtained by their own officials under domestic laws.

Since the early 1980s, this program has been called ECHELON, and has been expanded to intercept e-mails, faxes, telexes, electronic transactions and international telephone calls carried via satellites.

### 3. Mandatory information-gathering and reporting for financial transactions.

#### Fifth Signpost: The Convergence of National and International Databases.[6]

The extent of the characteristics of this signpost is very extensive and a complete listing is past the scope of this paper. However, in countries known for their oppressive regimes, the extent to which an integration of functions and information sharing with the US has been occurring is probably the greatest. Countries like Georgia, Indonesia, Egypt, Malaysia and Uzbekistan are sharing information suspects, and in some cases intelligence and military operations, with the US.

#### Sixth Signpost: Data Mining.

The use of computer models to assess masses of data for selected criteria. The masses of data being scanning make human interface and interpretation impossible. This amounts to having one's actions and motives interpreted by a computer.

#### Seventh Signpost: The Loss of Sovereignty Checks and Balances.[7]

When all the signposts or initiatives described above are viewed together, what emerges are the "contours of a vast, increasingly integrated multinational registration and surveillance system, with information floating more or less freely between subsystems.



As this system emerges, the police, security, intelligence and military operations of many nations are becoming deeply integrated with US operations.

National governments are giving up sovereignty and throwing aside national checks and balances in favor of an integrated security system that is largely being designed and controlled by the US.

Eighth Signpost: The Corporate Security Complex.[8]

For the government security/intelligence community, the "war on error" offers an unprecedented opportunity to increase its investigative surveillance powers by tapping into the possibilities offered by new information technologies.

Ninth Signpost: The Expropriation of the Democratic Principles.[9]

Governments have been able to make these changes in democracy in democratic countries by declaring a state of crisis.

But, the "war on terror" is a war without end, so the state of crisis is permanent, not temporary.

As a result, democratic societies are in grave danger of being turned, over time, into surveillance societies -- or worse, into police states.

Tenth Signpost: A loss of Moral Compass - Rendition, Torture, Death.[10]

It is now clear that the U.S. and other countries participating in the global surveillance project are engaging in torture, inhumane treatment, and indefinite detention . . . in their own facilities, as well as sending suspects to third countries where they face torture, inhumane treatment, and indefinite detention.

The worst that individuals have to fear from the global system of mass surveillance is something far darker than "mere" loss of privacy, civil liberties, freedom of movement, or loss of democratic patrimonies. (They face indefinite detention in a global gulag).

At this point the reader may be convinced he is reading something from a science fiction book.

But this is not science fiction.

This is what is being planned and constructed in real time - our time.

Of these 10 signposts, the one most identifiable in today's mass media coverage is Rendition and Torture.

Even the most hardened cynic would be forced to admit there is at least a coincidental association between the

Rendition and Torture being discussed in the media and that presented here as a glaring warning signpost to all Americans of a global trend being sponsored by the United States.

For those who say that "all is well" and we merely need to trust our government, please take the time to read these ten signposts again - slowly and carefully.

After a second reading, take the time to read and absorb the following myths about your safety as an American.

Myth No. 1: We are merely being asked to sacrifice some of our privacy and conveniences for greater security.

Myth No. 2: These initiatives facilitate travel.

Myth No. 3: If one has nothing to hide, one has nothing to worry about.

Myth No. 4: The technology being used is objective and reliable.

Myth No. 5: Terrorist watch lists are a reliable product of international cooperation and consensus.

Myth No. 6: If one is mistakenly caught up in the global surveillance net, one's government can protect one.

Myth No. 7: Governments want to implement these systems to protect their citizens from terrorists.

Myth No. 8: Western democracies are defending democracy and human rights around the world.

Myth No. 9: These initiatives make us safer.

Myth No. 10: Guaranteeing security is the paramount responsibility of governments.

Myth No. 11: At least, these initiatives are better than doing nothing.

For any American to have read this far and not have at least a twinge of unease about the direction and intentions of his government, is impossible.

If any American has even the remotest contact with or interest in the true condition of today's world, there has to a twinge of unease by this point.

If any one of these 11 myths is in any degree false, then any global citizen should be extremely worried and any American should be terrified because Americans have more to lose than the citizens of any other country in the world.

Reference:

The International Campaign Against Mass Surveillance (ICAMS) was founded by the American Civil Liberties Union, Focus on the Global South, the Friends' Committee on National Legislation, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group and Statewatch.

ICAMS was launched on April 20 2005 in London, Manila, Ottawa and Washington.

Notes:

Full credit for the information in this article is given to the April 2005 ICAMS report. References from ICAMS April 2005 Report:

[1] Page 39. [2] Page 5 [3] Page 8 [4] Page 12 [5] Page 14 [6] Page 18 [7] Page 33 [8] Page 35 [9] Page 38 [10] Page 39

The myths quoted are taken from the same report.

## A Global Infrastructure for Mass Surveillance Part - 2

The most dangerous man to any government is the man who is able to think things out...without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane, intolerable. --H. L. Mencken

Liberty has never come from the government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of government. The history of liberty is the history of resistance.

The history of liberty is a history of the limitation of governmental power, not the increase of it. --Woodrow Wilson

In today's world we have been dumbed down through our government educational system, television and Hollywood's interpretation of history and current events to the point where no one seems to have the faintest inclination to study and examine, with a critical eye, what our political parties fob off on us for the truth.

How many in the Republican Party view their party as dishonest, insane, and/or intolerable?

When Clinton was in power, how many Democrats were able to see that selling our defense secrets to the Chinese for campaign contributions was dishonest, insane AND intolerable?

We apparently assume that anything said by our government - especially the President - is true and needs no examination or comment.

For the most part, even a cursory examination of anything a politician says can be found to be false and is presented for his/her own reason(s).

The myths surrounding our dealings with the government's avowed purpose of "protecting" us needs more objective scrutiny than almost any other scam politicians have to inflict upon us.

"Scam" is a harsh word, but as one examines the true nature of the programs for mass surveillance of global populations it will be seen that "scam" is a word far too benign to truly describe the programs presently underway.

The programs, under the sponsorship and goading of the US intelligence community, are truly terrifying in scope and content.

The insidious part of this "racket" is that it continues to grow irrespective of which party is in power.

Each administration hands its "rogue baton" to its successor that in turn builds upon the foundation being handed it.

After all, what politician has ever been guilty of reducing the size and scope of government?

In essence, this succession is exemplified by Clinton's domestic and global surveillance system being handed to Bush who was "honor" (sic) bound to embellish whatever Clinton had in place.

Bush's embellishments have been Orwellian in scope and stature - especially after 9/11.

For each embellishment that has been unearthed, there has had to be a myth created to soothe the uneasy electorate.

The following popular myths will be examined to see what is behind the facade of deceit for each mass surveillance program presently under development.

Myth No. 1: We are merely being asked to sacrifice some of our privacy and convenience for greater security:

Why is this a myth? Because like most myths, it doesn't examine any of the ramifications that would allow the citizen to analyze the pros and con's in order to arrive at a rational conclusion. Like most myths this one sounds so good that anyone wanting to argue the premise must be a "terrorist in drag".

In the first place, we aren't being "asked" anything.

The scheme toward global surveillance is being pursued with the utmost stealth by all the government entities participating in the programs.

Secondly, "some" is not in the development lexicon.

We are talking here of the sacrifice of TOTAL individual privacy.

This is a program development necessity because the programs are being built with an objective of "risk assessment".

Risk assessment for the most part is concerned with the analysis of huge blocks of data to determine trends or patterns.

Most of the analysis is done without human interface so it is up to computers to determine the trends. Fourth, this data sharing is done without regard to which government or governmental agency sees it or uses it.

This means that while a citizen may be living within the laws of a particular country, his shared data can put him in grave danger under the laws of some other country that may be examining his "dossier".

Myth No. 2: These initiatives facilitate travel:

Facilitating travel is the least of "Big Brother's" objectives. "Brother" is more interested in creating a record of passengers' private information. Passenger information is being stored for data mining purposes to identify risk patterns.

"There are no legal avenues of redress to challenge one's risk "score". Those who are pulled over as moderate or "unknown" risks will miss flights.

Those who are flagged as high risk may be "rendered" by the United States and other countries without any kind of due process, to third countries where they may face torture, arbitrary detention and even death". [1]



Myth No.3: If one has nothing to hide, one has nothing to worry about.

Again we have a "flag and apple pie" myth created by the bureaucracy to disguise the 800-pound gorilla watching television in the living room.

The key inaccuracy here is in not asking "nothing to hide from WHOM"?

The problem is that the data that is stored and data-mined is shared with any and all agencies with which the US cooperates in this burgeoning global surveillance network.

Therefore, one can never be sure who will be looking at and analyzing one's particular personal data.

As previously stated, if a computer decides your data "score" isn't correct, there is no appeal to the totally impersonal system under which your score was calculated because the data hasn't been touched by human hands.

Thus, the only variable for a security score unsatisfactory to some computer will be: is the victim to be tortured and killed in the area where his "score" was found to be unsatisfactory, or will one be rendered to some other country for "special handling"?

Myth No. 4: The technology being used is objective and reliable:

"First, the factual base on which the technology rests is unreliable.

The 'best information available' on which data mining or risk-scoring technology depend is often inaccurate, lacking context, dated or incomplete. It might even be 'dirty' information - extracted by torture, or offered by an informant who is vulnerable or is acting in bad faith.

None of the data mining programs contains a mechanism by which individuals can correct . . . or object to the information that is being used against them, or even know what it is.

Indeed, these systems are uninterested in this kind of precision.

They would be bogged down if they were held to the ordinary standards of access, accuracy and accountability.

Operating on a precautionary principle, they are not really concerned with the truth about individuals: they are meant to cut a broad swath". [2]

Myth No. 5: Terrorist watch lists are a reliable product of international intelligence cooperation and consensus.

Again, how can "mere" citizens quarrel with such a premise?

Who would think their government is operating a flawed system that isn't designed for his/her protection?

The reality is that there is no central, planned criteria for determining whose name goes on the list(s) or why.

Various governments and intelligence entities establish their own criteria for establishing the lists.

"Equally troubling is the fact that "there is no due process afforded individuals or groups to allow them to challenge the inclusion of their names on a list.

And, once the "terrorist" label is fastened to them, actions are taken against them without normal legal protections being afforded (protections such as presumption of innocence the right to know the evidence and allegations against one and to respond, the right to remain silent, and habeas corpus).

This is the essence of the risk assessment model: it treats as intolerable risks the very legal protections that are fundamental to free and democratic societies". [3]

Myth No. 6: If one is mistakenly caught up in the global mass surveillance net, one's government can protect one:

The fact is that once a citizen of any country is caught in this international surveillance web, there is little his government can do to protect him.

Myth No. 7: Governments want to implement these systems in protect their citizens from terrorists.

Who would be so foolish as to argue with such an obvious, lofty goal?

Answer, anyone who is even remotely aware of the manner in which the mass surveillance systems operate.

The agreements between governments are many times irresponsible and do not have adequate controls concerning the sharing of information.

There is also the economic factor involved.

Some countries, to gain information on foreign citizens, freely use various forms of economic coercion.

For example, the United States has the lever of withholding landing rights to force airlines to hand over passenger information.

Threatened withholding of foreign aid by the US and the EU is also used as a bludgeon to force countries to acquiesce on sharing personal information on their citizens.

Myth No. 8: Western Democracies are defending democracy and human rights around the world.

Do the following examples of "justice" sound as though Western Democracies are interested in defending human rights?

1. The UK allows the CIA to operate one of its extraterritorial detention centers on the British island of Diego Garcia.

2. Sweden has allowed US, UK and German agencies to question suspects held in Sweden and have cooperated in the rendition of asylum applicants from Sweden to Egypt for torture and imprisonment.

3. In Italy, US intelligence agents kidnapped an Islamic militant and sent him to Egypt where he was tortured.

4. A German is alleged to have been seized by Macedonian police, held for weeks incommunicado, striped and beaten, flown to a jail in Afghanistan controlled by US agents where he was held and tortured for five months before being dumped in Albania.

5. The governments of Austria, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, and the UK have themselves sought to deport terrorist suspects to countries where torture is used.

Myth No. 9: These initiatives make us safer:

Another illusion from the masters of "illusion".

The oceans of data mined by the various governments using faulty logic and conceived biases, yields outrageous number of errors.

For the statistically large number of people misidentified, the consequences can be dire.

What is required is good information about specific threats, not crude racial profiling and useless information on the nearly 100 percent of the population that poses no threat whatsoever. [4]

Myth No. 10: Guaranteeing security is the paramount responsibility of governments.

If this myth is true, why did 9/11 happen?

The point here is that the various US intelligence agencies DID receive generalized warnings from several sources that an attack on the US using civilian airplanes was being planned, but no increased security measures were taken to safeguard the country.

"Three years after the attack, 120,000 hours of recorded telephone calls had yet to be translated by the FBI".

So how then could the oceans of data that are now being made available for computer analysis have averted an attack?

The United States security apparatus did not need, before 9/11, the ocean of general irrelevant information they are now collecting and would very likely have drowned in it altogether.

Myth No. 11: At least, these initiatives are better than doing nothing.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Besides the fact that these initiatives are robbing the American people of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution and Bill of Rights, they are doing much more harm than good to the goal of increasing domestic security.

Resources are being diverted from more useful projects and in their present form and application these initiatives are not effective deterrents to terrorists.

## Conclusions:

The fallacies of these myths are apparent after even a cursory glance at what they conceal and evade.

The "slope" they represent is not even a slippery one - it is a cliff over a disaster.

Once these initiatives are in place and affecting the governments of many countries around the world having different laws, different values and different agendas, the genie is truly out of the bottle and free to run wild around the globe creating a myriad of unforeseen consequences. The genie can never be put back in the bottle.

One of the more sinister aspects of what the United States is unleashing on the world is the fact that these programs are being done with utmost stealth and with no oversight and safeguards for the citizens of any country.

For repressive regimes, the rulers can always point to acting in cooperation with their "friend", the United States.

For countries having varying degrees of democracy, the despotic urgings of the US can be used to justify the persecution of their own citizens.

For we totally unsuspecting Americans, the totalitarian aspect of these programs is truly alarming.

We have worked 230 years to build a nation with a constitution that would safeguard us against the actions of a government doing exactly what this Administration is doing now.

All this is being done under the cloak of hysteria created after we were attacked in September of 2001.

These things are being done by a government that tries to keep its every action hidden from the people.

In the eyes of our present government, it is we Americans who are the enemy.

"Terrorists" are only a handy tool to be used against America and its founding principles.

We Americans still have time to stop our headlong fall into totalitarianism, but at this late hour it is going to take a very concentrated effort to overcome the gravity of the lack of information and apathy acting to pull us into disaster.

Americans must put their democracy to the test by contacting their elected representatives and demanding that they become conversant with these initiatives.

For every program approved there must be an active oversight program.

Congressional representatives must be called upon to investigate these programs and weigh them against our Constitution.

Any program that jeopardizes the individual or collective "American Rights" under our Constitution must be stopped.

There must be no blind acceptance of "Executive Privilege".

Executive Orders must be examined and challenged when necessary for the preservation of our democracy - even as badly damaged and fragile as it is.



Reference: The International Campaign Against Mass Surveillance (ICAMS) was founded by the American Civil Liberties Union, Focus on the Global South, the Friends' Committee on National Legislation, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group and Statewatch.

[1] ICAMS April 2005 Report pdf file, Page 14; [2] Page 24; [3] Page 32; [4] Page 48.

## A Global Infrastructure for Mass Surveillance Part - 3

### Surveillance for the Common Man

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light. - Plato

Today's news is made up in large part by media hysteria in which the media can enhance their ratings or readership by choosing some random subject with a plethora of potential "talking heads" without doing any substantive research into newsworthy topics.

An example of one of today's media subjects is the mass hysteria generated by president (sic) Bush's admission that he authorized illegal wiretaps of American citizens inside the United States.

On the surface, this appears to be a subject of concern; and certainly it is a subject of Constitutional concern. However, this invasion of American privacy is certainly not a "first".

In fact, this spying on Americans is so common as to hardly be deserving of special mention.

The only thing unique about today's "news" is that a whistleblower opened today's government's activities to public scrutiny.

But even the Rush Limbaugh's of the airwaves know virtually nothing of the subject of global mass surveillance and certainly have no interest in assigning their research "experts" to exploring a subject that would jeopardize their propaganda role in the eyes of their "dear leader".

Even for the very few with the time, fortitude and interest in the subject of legal and illegal surveillance of the global community by cooperating governments, the subject has been made very, very difficult to penetrate by the cloak of secrecy constructed by the consortium of governments involved.

The first part of this article will further explore and explain the alarming characteristics of mass surveillance programs; the latter part of the article will examine the "not so obvious dangers" the programs pose to the civil rights of American and foreign citizens by further detailing the type programs that have thus far been uncovered and the type information being collected on the individual as well as the inherent abuses of this power.

This article by necessity will fall on the deaf ears of our Congress (because Congress has no other type ears) and hopefully will be ignored by the intelligence and Gestapo agencies of our government.

The target of this information would normally be the American people with their power to influence their political representatives to demand increased civil rights oversight.

But today, Americans apparently have little desire to avoid the inevitable calamity that lack of concern, apathy and a carefully nurtured ignorance foster.

Americans are getting the government they deserve.

So, there is no target audience for this report. It should be read exclusively for its entertainment value.

Changing Reasons for Spy Systems and Programs.

Present day spy systems were conceived during World War II.

The end of the war brought the danger of funding and personnel cuts to the various spy systems that had been developed through the cooperation of the "allies" during the war.

The onset of the Cold War became the answer to the "spooks" most fervent prayer.

Not only were personnel and funding cuts avoided, but budgets became inflated past the "spooks" wildest dreams; as budgets were inflated, oversight by any outside agency dwindled according to their wildest dreams.

If there were accidental glimpses into the spy industry's workings and half-hearted objections raised, agency goals were shifted to meet the challenge of exposure.

Military objectives were changed or were expanded to include "justified" commercial targets. Spying for "commercial" reasons were rationalized with many justifications.

The results, in many cases, turned out to be oriented for the benefit of corporations that, by coincidence, turned out to be contributors to the "deaf and dumb" political entities who should have been overseeing the "spook" transgressions against the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

So, everyone one was happy - the American citizen because he was blissfully ignorant of what was being done to his freedoms, the spook agencies because their budgets and staffing were growing exponentially and the politicians were happy because of the "corporate political contribution manna" falling from heaven.

If the Cold War provided a steroid-type growth stimulus to the spy industry, 9/11 brought about a further undreamed of growth pattern.

Not only could budgets and staffing be mestasized, but new surveillance program contracts could be given to favored defense contractors; even the miniscule oversight by Congress of pre 9/11 spy agency programs could be further curtailed without a whimper from Congress.

The hysteria created by the government created vision of Bin Laden hiding in a cave with his "super magic" cell phone directing a world-wide network of terrorists was enough to engender a Homeland Security spy apparatus replete with an intelligence czar and virtually unlimited powers, no oversight and a limitless budget.

(Of course it has never occurred to Joe Citizen or to our Congress to question how the "will-of-the-wisp Bin Laden could direct such a network from a cave in Afghanistan even with a "super magic" satellite cell phone.

Even more to the point, the following sections may cause the reader to question how any Bin Laden communications could possibly escape the detection and locating capabilities of the ECHELON program.

However it should be noted that, asking such questions could well earn one the label of terrorist sympathizer).

## **Programs of Mass Surveillance and Their Characteristics.**

### **1. The ECHELON Program.**

"The existence and expansion of ECHELON is a foreboding omen regarding the future of our Constitutional liberties.

If a government agency can willingly violate the most basic components of the Bill of Rights without so much as Congressional oversight and approval, we have reverted from a republican form of government to tyranny."

[1] The breeding ground for ECHELON was laid in 1947 between the US and four partners - the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Since then additional partners have been drawn into the system so that at present, within Europe, all email, telephone and fax communications are routinely intercepted by the United States National Security Agency, transferring all target information from the European mainland . . . to Fort Meade in Maryland

[2] . . . Additionally, space-based electronic communications "vacuum cleaners" pick up radio, microwave and cell phone traffic on the ground.

[3] The program is administered by the National Security Agency (NSA) and boasts the most enviable array of intelligence equipment and personnel in the world.

"The NSA is the largest global employer of mathematicians, featuring the best teams of codemakers and codebreakers ever assembled."

[4] With this "land-based system of intercept stations, intelligence ships sailing the seven seas and top-secret satellites . . . very few signals escape the system's electronic grasp.

Having divided the world up among the UKUSA parties, each agency directs its electronic "vacuum-cleaner" equipment towards the heavens and the ground to search for the most minute communications signals that traverse the system's immense path".

[5] Additionally, at least three major domestic fiber-optic telephone trunk lines - each capable of carrying 100,000 calls simultaneously - were discovered (in 1997) to be wired through the British equivalent of Fort Mead -Menwith Hill.

This allows the NSA to tap into the very heart of the British Telecomm network.

This scope of surveillance capability and sophistication is duplicated with each of the other NSA spying partners so there is virtually no communication signal generated on the planet that is not within the grasp of these giant signal "vacuum cleaners".

Even this technical sophistication does not fully explain the power of this program.

The true power comes through the combination of the mechanical and electronic components allowing the interception of global communication signals with the software that allows the intercepted communications to be properly separated by category, origination/destination, subject matter, priority, etc. for most effective analysis in terms of tracking trends and "hot spots".

This surveillance program is an extremely powerful tool in the hands of any government or agency and is very, very effective as a political tool/weapon or as commercial espionage weapon.

The program is capable of intercepting an individual cell phone signal and, through voice recognition programs, recognize and categorize the call for trend analysis or individual content.

## ECHELON Capabilities.

In short, "the extraordinary ability of ECHELON to intercept most of the communications traffic in the world is breathtaking in its scope.

These programs and computers transcend state-of-the-art; in many cases, they are well into the future. Processing millions of messages every hour, the ECHELON systems churn away 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, looking for targeted keyword series, phone and fax numbers, and specified voiceprints". [6]

### 1. Resistance to "Snooping on the Snoops".

There is concerted resistance by intelligence heads, law enforcement agencies and political representatives for oversight and control of surveillance activities such as those of ECHELON.

All sorts of convoluted, complex legal arguments are raised to defend the activities of ECHELON, protect power kingdoms and avoid shining the light of public scrutiny and oversight on these and all other spying activities.

The Oklahoma City bombing, 9/11 and the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania are all persuasive arguments presented to justify the status quo and further unrestricted growth of the programs.

The argument for "security" always triumphs over common sense and concerns for civil rights violations.

Additionally those in government who attempt to pry too closely into the workings of ECHELON with civil rights concerns have frequently been warned off after finding themselves targeted for investigation by the intelligence "system".

... "But despite the real threats and dangers to the peace and protection of American citizens at home and abroad, our Constitution is quite explicit in limiting the scope and powers of government.

A fundamental foundation of free societies is that when controversies arise over the assumption of power by the state, power never defaults to the government, nor are powers granted without an extraordinary, explicit and compelling public interest".

As the late Supreme Court Justice William Brennan pointed out: The concept of military necessity is seductively broad, and has a dangerous plasticity.

Because they invariably have the visage of overriding importance, there is always a temptation to invoke security "necessities" to justify an encroachment upon civil liberties.

For that reason, the military-security argument must be approached with a healthy skepticism: Its very gravity counsels that courts be cautious when military necessity is invoked by the Government to justify a trespass on [Constitutional] rights". [7]

## 2. Abuses of our System of Government by the System(s) of Surveillance.

The systems of espionage, in all their forms, beg for abuse by those wishing to maintain their positions of power and influence.



The mushrooming range of espionage used by the surveillance system(s) oversteps the threshold of abuse by a wide margin.

The systems have been used to spy on political opponents and label as subversives those who expose the excesses of corrupt government activity, disregard for human rights, corporate pollution and even the promoters of the gospel of Christ.

That the intelligence powers of the United States should be arrayed against peaceful organizations both within and without the country in the name of "security" is blasphemy against our Constitution and demonstrative of our government's desire not to monitor, but to control.

Although economic spying is probably one of the least offensive parts of the government's surveillance programs, it bears mentioning because its exposure shows the versatility of the programs and the "tailoring" efforts of monitored information to uses other than strictly interpreted national "security" matters.

Economic spying has reached such a level that there have even been departments created within the government whose mandate is that of passing ECHELON gathered information to various US companies for exploitation against foreign industrial competitors.

While this may be interpreted as a beneficial by-product of the system, its use is a double-edged sword because foreign partner governments and economic competitors can use the same information in the same manner against the United States.

The incestuous relationship between the companies producing the ECHELON technology and the intelligence agencies is one that may not meet the strict interpretation of "conflict of interest", but at the very least represents an improper use of taxpayer funds.

It should be noted that: "while the UKUSA is a product of Cold War political and military tensions, ECHELON is purely a product of the 20th Century - the century of statism.

The modern drive toward the assumption of state power has turned legitimate national security agencies and apparatus into relationship pawns in a manipulative game where the stakes are no less than the survival of the Constitution.

The systems developed prior to ECHELON were designed to confront the expansionist goals of the Soviet Empire - something the West was forced out of necessity to do.

But as Glyn Ford, European Parliament representative for Manchester, England, and the driving force behind the European investigation of ECHELON, has pointed out: "The difficulty is that the technology has now become so elaborate that what was originally a small client list has become the whole world." [8]

## **Conclusion.**

It must be remembered that although the sophistication and capabilities of ECHELON is futuristic and would seem to be all encompassing, it is only one of many similar programs in use and on the drawing boards of our government.

The total spy and surveillance capability of the United States and its allies is truly beyond comprehension - and apparently beyond control.

Journalists have been working for 40 years to penetrate even the fringes of ECHELON capabilities.

There are unknown numbers of programs in their infancy that are just as powerful in their own ways as ECHELON.

Put together and working against Americans, other nations and the "global" individual with no oversight from the American government or any other government, the possibilities of a New World Order are terrifyingly close to the grasp of our more unscrupulous politicians.

If one considers the evolution of the automobile since the end of World War II and compares that evolution to that of the spy and surveillance programs our government has constructed, then we may get a "feel" for the present state of the black art of espionage as it exists today.

If we consider the history of the totalitarian governments of Russia and Germany since 1930, we can see the absolute dedication of tyranny to its own survival and growth at any cost.

Today, if we can tear our attention away from the latest "Survivor" epic, we can see face to face the evil that is being prepared for those who adhere to the tenants of our Constitution.

The gulags of today hold an assortment of Muslims and Arabs that our government says wishes to do us harm.

Tomorrow they may hold an assortment of Americans who our government "says" wishes to do "it" harm.